

March 21, 1983

LB 308

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Abboud would now move to amend the bill. (Read Abboud amendment found on page 1037, Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, on the amendment.

SENATOR ABOUD: This is my amendment but I have a question for Senator Newell if he would yield.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Newell, would you respond please.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Newell, the way the wording of your amendments that you submitted, will this bill take effect after...before the 1984 vote or will the change from the two to four wards take effect three months after this session?

SENATOR NEWELL: Are you talking about the committee amendments or the amendments that I have to the bill?

SENATOR ABOUD: I am referring to your amendment.

SENATOR NEWELL: My amendment would require a vote of the people before the bill takes effect.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay. All right thank you. I would like to submit this amendment. The purpose of the bill is such that of the 29 first class cities in this state, 19 which have the mayor-council form of government, there is presently only one first class city in the state that does not have the present four wards. Back in 1913 when the first class cities were originally established, they established the four ward system. Three years ago the Legislature sought to make a couple of changes in dealing with the first class cities. The original intent was to have flexibility with first class cities so that they were not required to have the eight councilmen. They were only required to have the four. In the process they also changed it so that first class cities are not required to have the four minimum wards. As a result we have 19 first class cities with the mayor-council system of government and presently there is only one city that has changed or has the two wards and that is in my district, the City of Ralston. I sought to introduce this bill to make Ralston uniform with the other first class cities in requiring the four wards. I am...if Senator Newell seeks to introduce his amendments so that it will be put up to a vote of the people, I would urge that he would also see to have my amendment included on so that you would in essence have the people deciding beforehand so I urge you to adopt my